

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 122863
ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /022 R

66011
DRAFTED BY:EA/VLC:JDROSENTHAL/FMLC
APPROVED BY:EA/VLC:JDROSENTHAL
-----271239Z 076618 /45
R 270205Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS STATE 122863

FOLLOWING REPEAT BANGKOK 11504 ACTION SECSTATE INFO USIA
MAY 26.
QUOTE UNCLAS BANGKOK 11504

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPYIFPTH
SUBJ: OAKLEY NEWS CONFERENCE

USIA FOR IPS, IOR/RIM, IEA

REF: STATE 121054

FOLLOWING IS THE USIS TRANSCRIPT OF MAY 22 OAKLEY ARRIVAL NEWS
CONFERENCE HELD AT BANGKOK AIRPORT.

(BEGIN TRANSCRIPT)

OAKLEY: I'D JUST LIKE TO SAY THAT I'M HAPPY TO BE HERE. THIS FOR
ME IS STRICTLY A VOYAGE OF EDUCATION. I DID NOT COME OUT TO
ACCOMPLISH ANY PARTICULAR MISSION EXCEPT TO LEARN SOMETHING
ABOUT THIS PART OF THE WORLD. IT'S BEEN 10 YEARS SINCE I'VE BEEN
TO SOUTHEAST ASIA, AND SINCE I NOW HAVE SOME RESPONSIBILITY FOR
THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, I THOUGHT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO COME AND
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LOOK. OF COURSE, WHEN GENERAL KRIANGSAK WAS IN WASHINGTON, HE
URGED THAT I COME. SO THAILAND IS THE FIRST PLACE THAT I'M
STOPPING IN ON THIS BRIEF TRIP. I'LL BE GOING ON TO LAOS, TO
MALAYSIA, TO SINGAPORE AND TO INDONESIA BEFORE GOING
BACK HOME. I'LL BE GLAD TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS THAT YOU
ALL MAY HAVE.

Q: MR. OAKLEY. KEN KASHAWOHARA WITH ABC NEWS. AS YOU KNOW,
THE U.S. NAVY HAS SOME SHIPS STOPPING HERE NEXT WEEK. DID THE
STATE DEPARTMENT CONSIDER ANY DIPLOMATIC IMPLICATIONS WITH THE

VISIT, IN LIGHT OF THE FACT THAT VIETNAM CRITICIZED THE UNITED STATES MONTHS AGO WHEN SOME SHIPS WERE IN THE WATERS HERE.

AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE: ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THAT, BOB, THAT THE CONSTELLATION IS COMING IN?

A: NO. BUT I THINK THAT THIS IS TO US SOMETHING THAT IS NOT UNUSUAL, AND ALL OF OUR TOP OFFICIALS HAVE SAID, WE ARE NOT ABOUT TO FORGET OUR FRIENDS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. THERE IS NO HOSTILE INTENT AGAINST ANYONE. HAVING SHIPS VISIT... THEY VISIT MANY COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD, IS JUST SOMETHING OF ROUTINE.

Q: WAYNE COREY OF VOA. YOU'RE VISITING FOUR OF THE FIVE ASEAN COUNTRIES BUT NOT THE PHILIPPINES. IS THERE ANY PARTICULAR REASON WHY YOU'RE NOT GOING TO MANILA?

A: NO, EXCEPT MR. HOLBROOKE WAS IN MANILA NOT VERY LONG AGO, AND HE DID NOT HAVE A CHANCE TO GET TO THAILAND, SO I PARTICULARLY WANTED TO COME HERE, AND ALSO TO MALAYSIA, THE OTHER COUNTRY HE DIDN'T GET TO VISIT. THOSE ARE THE TWO WHERE I'M SPENDING THE MOST TIME, AND THEN I'M GOING TO A CONFERENCE THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT IS HAVING IN BALI. SO THAT'S THE MAIN FOCUS, AND I JUST DON'T HAVE TIME ENOUGH TO GET TO THE PHILIPPINES.

Q: PRASERT (MANOMAYAMGKUL) FROM BANGKOK POST. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT YOU'RE GOING TO MEET GENERAL KRIANGSAK. IS THERE ANY PARTICULAR UNCLASSIFIED

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MATTER ON WHICH YOU'RE GOING TO TALK WITH HIM?

A: NO. I HAD A LONG CONVERSATION WITH HIM IN WASHINGTON. I WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR COUNTRY. HE ASKED ME TO COME HERE, SO WE'LL JUST CONTINUE THE TALKS THAT WE HAD THERE (IN WASHINGTON). I'LL ALSO BE CALLING ON THE FOREIGN MINISTER, AND I'M CERTAIN THAT I'LL BE SEEING OTHER OFFICIALS. SO GENERAL KRIANGSAK, WHILE I'LL BE DELIGHTED TO SEE HIM, WON'T BE THE ONLY PERSON I'LL SEE WHILE I'M HERE.

Q: (VOA) WHAT WILL YOU BE DOING IN LAOS? ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR?

A: STRICTLY FAMILIARIZATION WHEREVER I GO, TRYING TO LEARN FIRST HAND ABOUT THE COUNTRIES HERE AND WHAT THE UNITED STATES CAN BEST DO, WHAT POLICIES WE SHOULD BEST FOLLOW. THERE IS, HAS BEEN A FEELING - UNFOUNDED - THAT THE UNITED STATES DIDN'T CARE ABOUT SOME OF ITS OLD FRIENDS. WE DO CARE, AND WE'RE TRYING TO DEVISE NEW POLICIES THAT FIT BOTH THE NEW APPROACH OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION AND THE NEW SITUATION IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD. I JUST WANTED TO SEE FOR MYSELF, SO IT WILL ENABLE US TO MAKE BETTER DECISIONS AS WE PROCEED.

Q: (VOA) HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE NEW APPROACH IN TERMS OF SOUTHEAST ASIA AT THIS POINT?

A: I WOULD SAY THAT THE NEW APPROACH, IN A SENSE, IS BOTH A CONTINUATION OF THE PAST SUPPORT THAT WE'VE HAD IN ADDITION TO TRYING TO DO WHAT WE CAN TO WORK FOR A LONGER-TERM STABILITY IN THE AREA, WITH A GREATER EMPHASIS ON IMPROVEMENT OF THE HUMAN SITUATION THROUGHOUT THE AREA. IN OTHER WORDS, A NEW ACCENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE BROAD SENSE, INCLUDING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, AS WELL AS IN THE POLITICAL AREA. THE CARTER (ADMINISTRATION) BUDGET ASKS FOR MORE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE THAN WAS IN OUR BUDGET REQUEST LAST YEAR. AND THERE WILL PROBABLY BE SOME NEW PROGRAMS IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD AS WELL AS ELSEWHERE IN TERMS OF... FOR OUR AID OPERATIONS. THERE CERTAINLY IS GREATER
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COOPERATION, IN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICIES, NORTH-SOUTH DIALOG, IN TRADE AND ELSEWHERE TO SEE WHAT CAN BE DONE TO HELP THE DEVELOPING NATIONS. THIS IS GENERAL APPROACH, I THINK THAT I SEE AS SOMETHING NEW TOGETHER WITH THE OLD, WHICH IS STILL A COMMITMENT TO OUR FRIENDS.

ONE OF THE THINGS THAT HAS IMPRESSED US ALREADY ABOUT SOUTHEAST ASIA IS THE INCREASING SELF-RELIANCE AND INITIATIVE SHOWN BY THE COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY THE ASEAN COUNTRIES - BOTH INDIVIDUALLY AND AS A GROUP. EVEN WITHOUT HAVING ARRIVED HERE, WE'VE BEEN IMPRESSED BY THAT.

Q: (ABC) MR. OAKLEY, COULD YOU TELL US IF THE ADMINISTRATION IS CURRENTLY DEVISING SPECIFICS ABOUT THAT POLICY THAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT? AND IF SO, WHAT SOME OF THE OPTIONS ARE AND WHEN THE FORMULATION OF THOSE SPECIFICS ARE LIKELY TO BE ANNOUNCED?

A: NO. I DIDN'T MEAN TO IMPLY THERE WAS A SPECIFIC NEW PROGRAM BEING DEVELOPED FOR ANY PARTICULAR PART OF THE WORLD, BUT I JUST WANTED TO STRESS THAT THERE IS A GENERAL EMPHASIS IN DOING MORE FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE INDIVIDUAL, AND IN TIME, I THINK THIS WILL RESULT IN SPECIFIC PROGRAMS.

Q: (VOA) CAN YOU COMMENT ON THE STATUS OF THE TALKS WITH THE VIETNAMESE IN PARIS?

A: I'M NOT CERTAIN WHAT THE STATUS IS, BECAUSE I'VE BEEN OUT OF TOUCH FOR SEVERAL DAYS. I'M NOT CERTAIN WHETHER WE FIXED A DATE, NOW, FOR ANOTHER MEETING. DO YOU KNOW, CHARLIE?

WHITEHOUSE: AS FAR AS WE CAN KNOW HERE, WE HAVE NOT.

OAKLEY: WELL, WHEN I LEFT WASHINGTON, THE DATE HAD NOT BEEN SET. IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE SOMETIME AROUND THE END OF THIS MONTH. BUT THE POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES, I THINK, WAS QUITE CLEAR AND WAS MADE CLEAR PUBLICLY AFTER THE MEETINGS WERE OVER, JUST
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AS IT WAS PRIVATELY WHILE THE MEETINGS WERE GOING ON. WE HAVE PROPOSED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH VIETNAM, IF IT'S INTERESTED. WE'VE REMOVED OUR OBJECTION TO THEIR MEMBERSHIP IN THE UNITED NATIONS, ALL OF WHICH INDICATES OUR INTERESTS IN NORMALIZED RELATIONSHIPS. WE HAVE AGREED THAT IN THE CONTEXT OF SUCH NORMAL RELATIONS, INCLUDING NORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, WE'D BE WILLING TO REMOVE OUR TRADE EMBARGO. OUR POSITION, AS YOU KNOW, HAS BEEN VERY CLEAR -- THAT WE FEEL THAT WE HAVE NO DEBTS. THEREFORE, WE'RE NOT AT THE PRESENT TIME, CONSIDERING OFFERING ANY BILATERAL ASSISTANCE, WHICH IS SOMETHING THE VIETNAMESE, IN TURN, HAVE BEEN VERY INSISTANT UPON. WHEN THE TALKS, NEXT ROUND OF TALKS WILL BE HELD AND WHAT WILL WILL COME OUT OF THEM, BEYOND THIS I JUST CAN'T SAY.

Q: (ABC) HAVE SNAGS DEVELOPED SINCE THE FIRST ROUND OF TALKS?

A: EXCUSE ME?

Q: (ABC) HAVE SNAGS DEVELOPED SINCE THE FIRST ROUND OF TALKS?

A: SNAGS? I DON'T KNOW. THERE HAVE BEEN NO SNAGS ON THE AMERICAN SIDE. I'M NOT QUITE SURE WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE VIETNAMESE SIDE, BUT THAT'S SOMETHING THEY WOULD HAVE TO ANSWER.

Q: (BAN MUANG NEWSPAPER) DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIFIC PROGRAM FOR YOUR VISIT TO UDORN AND THE REFUGEE CAMP AT UDORN?

A: I'M GOING TO BOTH UDORN AND CHIANG MAI. AS I UNDERSTAND IT, OUR CONSULS IN BOTH THOSE PLACES HAVE LAID ON A PROGRAM SO THAT I CAN LEARN ABOUT THE AREA THERE. I WOULD LIKE TO VISIT ONE OF THE REFUGEE CAMPS, AND I THINK THAT IS GOING TO BE PART OF THE PROGRAM. ONCE AGAIN, IT'S A QUESTION OF MY EDUCATION.

Q: (VOA) IS THERE ANY POSSIBILITY THE THE U.S. WILL STEP UP TAKING MORE INDOCHINESE REFUGEES FROM THAILAND AND OTHER COUN-
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TRIES? FRANCE SEEMS TO BE TAKING A GREAT DEAL MORE THAN THE U.S. AT THIS POINT. WHAT'S THE FEELING IN WASHINGTON ABOUT THAT?

A: I DON'T THINK... LET ME PUT IT THIS WAY. I CAN'T ANSWER THE QUESTION AT THE MOMENT, BECAUSE IT IS A QUESTION THAT WOULD REQUIRE A JUDGEMENT FROM THE CONGRESS, I BELIEVE, AS WELL AS THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH. BUT IT'S SOMETHING THAT, CERTAINLY WOULD BE CONSIDERED. BUT AS YET, THERE IS NO SPECIFIC PROGRAM.

Q: (VOA THERE'S BEEN NO SPECIFIC PROGRAM FOR TWO YEARS, REALLY. AT THIS POINT, THERE'S NO CHANGE IN THAT....

A: NOT AS YET, NO.

Q: (BAN MUANG) ABOUT YOUR PROGRAM IN MEETING WITH THE THAI FOREIGN MINISTER AND GENERAL KRIANGSAK...

A: I'M JUST GOING TO MEET WITH THEM AND HEAR WHAT THEY HAVE TO SAY. BECAUSE, AS I'VE SAID BEFORE, I'M HERE TO LEARN, AND I'LL BE DELIGHTED TO HEAR WHATEVER IT IS THEY WANT TO TELL ME.

Q: (VOA) WILL YOU BE DISCUSSING THE QUESTION OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO INDONESIA VIS A VIS HUMAN RIGHTS?

A: NO. I'M SURE THE QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS WILL COME UP IN ALL OF THE COUNTRIES. AS I SAY, HUMAN RIGHTS, PARTICULARLY IF YOU'VE READ SECRETARY VANCE'S SPEECH THAT HE GAVE A COUPLE OF WEEKS BACK, MEANS NOT JUST THE QUESTION OF INDIVIDUAL POLITICAL LIBERTIES, IT ALSO MEANS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE BROADER SENSE OF THE WELL BEING OF THE HUMAN CONDITION. AND CERTAINLY THIS WILL COME UP. PRESIDENT CARTER ATTACHES A GREAT DEAL OF IMPORTANCE TO IT. IT IS A MATTER WHICH HAS BEEN DISCUSSED IN THE CONGRESS AT GREAT LENGTH. IT IS A MATTER THAT IS BEING DISCUSSED AT THE MOMENT WITH RESPECT TO THE AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE THAT'S GOING TO BE VOTED FOR THE PHILIPPINES, AS I UNDERSTAND IT. SO IT IS SOMETHING THAT WILL COME UP. BUT I AM UNCLASSIFIED

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NOT HERE SPECIFICALLY FOR THAT PURPOSE. AND WE HAVE FOUGHT AND, I THINK SUCCESSFULLY, WITH THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR THAILAND AND INDONESIA, DESPITE EFFORTS TO KNOCK IT OUT. MR. HOLBROOKE AND I, AND A NUMBER OF OTHER PEOPLE DID A LOT OF WORK ON CAPITOL HILL EXPLAINING TO A NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL CONGRESSMEN AND SENATORS JUST HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO US THAT WE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT OUR FRIENDS IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD. FOR THE MOMENT, AT LEAST, IT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL. APPROVED FOR THAILAND AND INDONESIA WHICH IS A GOOD SIGN, SO FAR AS I'M CONCERNED. AND I HOPE THAT WE CAN KEEP IT UP.

Q: (BAN MUANG) DO YOU FEEL THAT FROM NOW ON RELATIONS BETWEEN THAILAND AND THE UNITED STATES WILL BE AS THEY WERE BEFORE THE SIXTH OF OCTOBER?

A: WE HOPE THAT RELATIONS WILL BE QUITE GOOD. AS I SAY, WE HOPE TO SEE RELATIONS ON SOMEWHAT OF A NEW BASIS. AND WE'RE ENCOURAGED BY THE EMPHASIS WHICH THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN THAILAND IS PUTTING UPON THE RESOLUTION OF ITS PROBLEMS. WE'RE ENCOURAGED BY WHAT'S BEING DONE IN WORKING UP NEW PROGRAMS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. WE'RE ENCOURAGED BY THE PROGRESS WHICH HAS BEEN MADE IN THE FIELD OF NARCOTICS, AND IN GENERAL. BECAUSE AS I SAY, OUR EMPHASIS IS GOING TO BE NOT JUST UPON SECURITY, AS IT WAS IN THE PAST, BUT ALSO UPON THINGS TO PROMOTE THE WELL BEING OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF THAILAND.

Q: (VOA)A TWO-PART QUESTION. DOES THE UNITED STATES SUPPORT EFFORTS BY THE ASEAN COUNTRIES AS A GROUP TO STANDARDIZE THEIR WEAPONS. AND DOES THE U.S. ALSO SUPPORT JOINT BORDER OPERATIONS LIKE THE RECENT ONES BETWEEN THAILAND AND MALAYSIA? AND THE SECOND PART OF THE QUESTION IS, ON THE EXISTANCE OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THAILAND SIGNED BY DEAN RUSK AND THANAT KHOMAN. DOES THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION ACCEPT THIS AS STILL VALID?

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A: TO ANSWER THE FIRST PART OF YOUR QUESTION, I WAS UNAWARE THAT (#) ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION. I AM NOT AWARE OF ANY EFFORTS BY THE ASEAN COUNTRIES INDIVIDUALLY OR COLLECTIVELY TO STANDARDIZE THEIR WEAPONS, ALTHOUGH THIS MAY BE. BUT THE UNITED STATES IS NOT A PARTY TO ANY SUCH PLAN. WE HAVE MILITARY SUPPLY RELATIONSHIPS WITH SOME, BUT NOT ALL OF THE ASEAN COUNTRIES. THERE IS NO EFFORT ON OUR PART TO ENGAGE IN ANY SUCH STANDARDIZING, NOR IS THE UNITED STATES ITSELF DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN SUPPORTING ANY PARTICULAR OPERATIONS BY ANY OF THESE COUNTRIES. OUR MILITARY SUPPORT IS, IN GENERAL, FOR THEIR ARMED FORCES. BUT THE PLANNING AND THE CONDUCT OF THEIR OPERATIONS IS SOMETHING WHICH IS UNDERTAKEN BY THEM ALONE WITHOUT OUR HAVING ANY ROLE IN IT WHATSOEVER.

THE SECOND PART OF YOUR QUESTION IS, THE UNITED STATES DOES STAND BY ITS OLD COMMITMENTS, SPECIFICALLY WHETHER OR NOT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, HOW IT WOULD REACT IN THE EVENT OF CIRCUMSTANCES AS ENVISAGED IN THE LETTER TO WHICH YOU REFER THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, I'M SURE, WOULD MAKE ITS OWN JUDGEMENT DEPENDING UPON THE SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES. BUT IN GENERAL, YES THERE IS CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THAILAND AND FOR THE OTHER COUNTRIES THAT HAVE LONG BEEN OUR FRIENDS IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD.

(END TRANSCRIPT)

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 22-Sep-1999 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE122863
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter:
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D770190-0119
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197705110/baaaewbi.tel
Line Count: 313
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 786ee888-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 121054
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2346742
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OAKLEY NEWS CONFERENCE
TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, EAID, OVIP, XC, US
To: PARIS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/786ee888-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009